

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4-6, and 9-26 were pending in the application and claims 10-12, and 15-21 were rejected. Applicant has amended claims 10, 14, and 18 and canceled claim 13. Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Office Action allowed claims 1, 4-6, 9, 22-26 and found that claims 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claims 13 into independent claims 10 and 18 and amended claim 14 to depend on claim 10.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103**

**The Office Action rejected claims 10-12, 15-21 under 35 USC 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Hashimoto (US 20060030334), in view of Banks, et al. (US 7400892). Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 13 and 14 which were designated as having allowable subject matter; therefore, claim 10 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 11, 12, and 15-17 are dependent on claim 10; therefore they are also allowable by virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim. Likewise claim 18 also been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter; therefore claim 18 and its dependent claims 19-21 are patentable over the cited references.

**The Office Action rejected claim 17 under 35 USC 103(a)** as being unpatentable over

Hashimoto and Banks in further view of Schipper et al. (Schipper) US 6,038,444.

Claim 17 is dependent on claim 10; therefore it is patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 10.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the finding of allowable subject matter and looks forward to receiving a Notice of Allowance. If for some reason the amendments made herein do not provide sufficient basis for an allowance, please contact the undersigned to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,

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